Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend page 3, paragraphs 6 and 7 of the specification as follows:

The compound of formula (1) may be, for example, (3-glycidoxypropyl)trimethoxysilane:

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{CH}_{2}\text{--}\text{CH}-\text{CH}_{2}\text{O}-\left(\text{CH}_{2}\right)_{3}\text{Si(OMe)}_{3} \\ \\ \text{O} \\ \\ \text{CH}_{2}\text{--}\text{CH}-\text{CH}_{2}\text{O}-\left(\text{CH}_{2}\right)_{3}\text{--}\text{Si(OMe)}_{3} \\ \end{array}$$

In a basic medium, the organosilicon compound grafts onto the HEC or the HPMC, opening the epoxide, and the methoxysilane groups are hydrolized to produce a polymer of simplified formula:

$$(\underline{HEC\ or\ HPMC}) - \underline{O-CH_2-CH-OHO-CH_2O-(CH_2)_3-Si-(ONa^+)_3}.$$